

Let's Loosen Up!

Saturday 5th September

11:00 am: Family Cycle Ride

Chester Green → Elvaston Castle
Meet at the corner of City Road and
Chester Green Road

10 mile round trip on flat cycle paths

Stop at Elvaston Castle for rest,
recuperation and refreshments

It's a fun ride led by experienced
cyclists, acting as
stewards and
ensuring safety in
line with Covid-19
protocols



3:00 pm: Picnic and Live Music

Live music from 11-piece funky jazz
band **LOOSEN UP**, led by
trombonist Dennis Rollins OBE

Bring along a picnic and enjoy a
fantastic funky and FREE
performance on Chester Green

Specially commissioned by Derby
Jazz to support live music

Social distancing will be observed



For more information call:
Adrian on 07757 923873 or
Steve on 07759 475485

Little Chester News Letter September 2020



Scarecrow Festival! Thank you to all who took part, or visited, the 1st Chester Green Scarecrow Festival. We had around 30 properties take part, a feature on BBC Radio Derby, and lots of visitors to our wonderful area! There were some really fantastic Scarecrows on show. Visit our Facebook page to see pics or hear the radio feature!

Poppy Appeal

We're getting closer to the installation of the Chester Green lamppost poppies. If you'd like to sponsor a poppy/donate, this can now be carried out on-line via the JustGiving page below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ChesterGreenPoppys>

The Chester Green Treasure Hunt (just for fun!) is still going....why not have a go on your daily walks!

tinyurl.com/CGTreasureHunt

If you have any questions or would like to get in touch please contact chestergreenents@gmail.com

EMAIL: chestergreenents@gmail.com

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/chestergreenents

Chester Green Book Exchange

The book exchange will be running in Marcus Street over the summer, but just once a month. The 1st Saturday of each month from 10-12pm, so 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November, 5th December. If you have any questions, contact Mel, phone number; 07847 900 586.

Food Bank Update

Firstly massive thanks for continuing to donate to the foodbank. Such generosity is uplifting and I don't know about you but I've often been in need of an uplift of late!

Thankfully the need for a regular, local, Darley foodbank distribution set up has now reduced and the demand can be met by centrally based organisations. Consequently, St. Alkmund's, who have done a cracking job coordinating the local distribution network, have now wound down their involvement. Big thanks to St. Alkmund's for their fantastic efforts.

Alison and I have discussed the issue and because there remains a large, city wide need we have agreed to continue to maintain the two existing Chester Green collection points. The donations will be collected weekly (by Alison, me as reserve!) and delivered to one of the central distribution hubs for city and city wide distribution. Please continue to donate if you are able.

If a clear, specific local need does appear in the autumn (let's hope not) then a Darley set up will be resurrected.



COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS: Good news – after so many months of closure during 'lockdown', Community venues were recently given the go ahead to reopen!



That presented a whole raft of complicated Covid related measures we had to adopt to ensure the building becomes as 'Covid Secure' as possible, including Risk Assessments for ourselves and our hirers, stricter cleaning regimes, and lots of signage around the building showing how it must now be used!

Unfortunately, some of our regular hirers aren't able to return yet but are working towards a time when they can safely restart. We are pleased to welcome Slimming World to the Centre but, there again, our social events and private weekend parties are also on hold.

We are, therefore, able to consider requests for short term hires at the moment e.g. meetings, training sessions, short term courses etc, and our Booking Officer can be contacted on 07527 603057 or at: chestergreencommunitygroup@hotmail.com to discuss rates and availability.

It would be great to be able to host the Events Team fund raising Fashion Show and our own brilliant Halloween Night party at the end of October ???? – watch this space!

Our City Our River Flood Defence Work

1) There are still remaining elements to complete which meet the other aims of OCOR which include:

- a) Individual Property Flood Resilience measures (Darley Abbey mainly)
- b) Landscape reinstatement
- c) Sports mitigation including refurbishment of Parkers Piece Pavilion and Cricket wicket.
- d) Public Art and Interpretation

Plans are being drawn up to construct a small section of 'roman road' at the end of Old Chester Road and provide new information boards as part of a wider scheme of interpretation across the OCOR project.

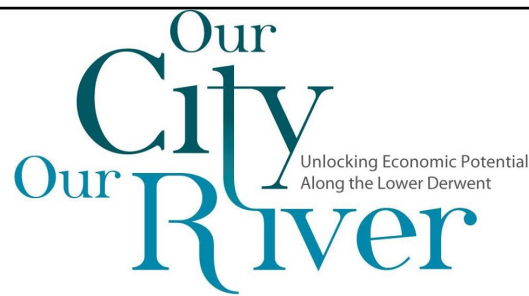
- e) Ongoing Biodiversity and Environmental enhancement activities

Work has been underway at Darley Park to carry out management works on the veteran trees including some of the large oaks in the parkland. A number of self-set bankside trees have also been removed beside the wildflower meadow in preparation for works later in the summer to re-grade section of the riverbank to prevent further erosion. An underwater ledge is to be created with marginal planting and banks reinstated with grass seed.

2) Landscaping – Landscaping works are now underway again after lockdown and seeding works are taking place at Darley Playing Fields and other small sites. The contractors are catching up with maintenance and have continued to water the new trees.

3) Aida Bliss - The Council is continuing with plans to develop the Aida Bliss factory site for new homes, while retaining the existing brick facade to City Road. We are currently out to tender for the professional team, including architects, engineers etc., and we aim to appoint them in June. We want to find the team that will give us the best quality of design, and find solutions that respect and enhance the heritage setting. We are not choosing between different designs for the site at this stage – there will be chance for residents to be involved in that before any plans are fixed.

4) Parkers Piece Cricket Facilities - Work is continuing to improve the cricket pitch. This includes construction of a new square with an artificial wicket, infilling depressions to improve the outfield surface, topdressing and seeding with sand slitting to improve drainage to follow on next spring. Planning is underway for the refurbishment of the pavilion. The last piece of the jigsaw is to obtain a bat licence to enable us to start the work.



Sad News

Mick Vickers - It is with great sadness that I have to report the sudden passing of Mick Vickers. He was the landlord of the Coach and Horses for nearly 10 years and with his wife Debs made such a difference to so many lives. The work that he did raising money for charity often went unnoticed but was very significant. He became a friend to many many people. His deep love of music made many an evening pure pleasure.

Mick left the Coach to follow his music dream at the Duke of York and he then moved to another community pub, the White Swan in Spondon.

Mick, you will be deeply missed by many. I am sure that we all would like to pass our deepest sympathy to Debs.

Jean Sharpe who ran the shop on the corner of City Road and Old Chester Road has sadly passed away. She was a really kind and warm hearted woman who dedicated much of her life to animal welfare by supporting many charities - especially the Cats Protection League. She fostered many cats and kittens enabling them to be rehomed in loving forever homes. She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Derby Covid Community Response Hub

Council calls for volunteers and offers help to the vulnerable

Those who need help can contact **DerbyDirect** on **01332 640000**. The line will open between 9.30am and 4.00pm, Monday to Friday. There's also a dedicated email address covidsupport@communityactionderby.org.uk

If you're willing to help out, please join our local Facebook page and Whats-App group. The council refers cases to us directly.

FB -> <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ChesterGreenCovidSupport/>

Chester Green Support and Volunteer line: **07377 924085**

To join the WhatsApp group, click this link : <https://tinyurl.com/CGC19VoI>

State of Darley Playing Fields Entrance

We recently contacted the parks to find out if the very run down entrance to Darley Playing Fields (where the public toilets are) could be given a lick of paint and a refurb. We received this reply from David Winslow, Community Parks Officer:

"You'll be pleased to know, there are plans for both the buildings and entrance areas at Darley Playing Fields.

Derby City Council's Property Design and Maintenance Team (PD&M) have carried out several surveys on the buildings and plan to carry out both essential repair works and improve the appearance from the outside too. Many of these surveys were carried out pre-lockdown before teams in the Council were split to help out with Derby's COVID-19 response. Unsurprisingly, the old buildings revealed they were home to protected bat and bird species which require further planning to mitigate any disturbance. Things are slowly getting back to 'normal' and we hope to receive an update from PD&M soon.

With regard to the entrance into Darley Fields, the Our City Our River Team OCOR still have some works to carry out to complete the flood defences transformation. These improvements include new welcome signage, rebuilding the main entrance stonework and replanting the shrub beds. Like any works in a conservation area, the correct approvals are needed from Historic England before changes take place. This was discussed at a team meeting around one month ago and we will be updated again soon.

The planters full of 'weeds' were once looked after by the local community who planted a mini wildflower meadow. I don't think they are tended anymore but we have highlighted these to form part of the entrance restoration project."

SLIMMING WORLD IS BACK

New night, new venue.

Wednesday August 12th at Chester Green Community Centre, City Road. 6pm to 6.45pm OR 7pm to 7.45pm

BOOKING ESSENTIAL. Phone or text Kim on 07939 173386.

Put a few pounds on during lock down? come and join this friendly group and love the results. Contact Kim to book your place.



Ward Councillors

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